

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A bag formed of a sheet material, comprising:

a plastically deformable wire-like member attached exclusively along a lateral edge of said bag, the lateral edge having a hem seal formed by heat sealing, the wire-like member being disposed inside a fused joint of a folded back hem seal of said bag with a non-fused portion left between the wire-like member and a surrounding fused portion of the hem seal, wherein said vertical wire-like member is disposed along the lateral edge inside said folded back hem seal joint such that the folded back hem seal joint is positioned at a top end, at a bottom end, and on at least one side of the vertical wire-like member so as to leave a space from a fused portion of said joint and is disposed exclusively along an upper portion of the hem seal joint of said bag.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The bag according to claim 2, wherein the joint has formed therein a tubular holder for holding said wire-like member, and wherein the wire-like member is inserted in the holder.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A gusset bag, comprising:

a pair of main faces and a pair of inward folding side faces being adapted to be opened at a top portion of said gusset bag for taking out contents of the gusset bag while self-standing;

a deformable vertical wire-like member vertically attached along each lateral edge of said gusset bag that is an intersection of adjacent main and side faces over a length from an output opening side portion to a body portion of the gusset bag and is disposed along an upper portion of said gusset bag such that the vertical wire-like member does not extend to a top edge of the gusset bag; and

a lateral wire-like member laterally attached to each of the side faces to substantially form the shape of an inverted angular "U" together with a pair of the vertical wire-like members when the pair of main faces is not folded and the pair of side faces is folded inwardly.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A gusset bag ~~according to claim 4,~~  
comprising:

a pair of main faces and a pair of inward folding side faces adapted to be opened at a top portion of said gusset bag for taking out contents of the gusset bag while self-standing,

wherein a deformable vertical wire-like member is vertically attached exclusively along each lateral edge of said gusset bag that is an intersection of adjacent main and side faces over a length from an output opening side portion to a body portion of the gusset bag and is disposed exclusively along an upper portion of said gusset bag such that the vertical wire-like member does not extend to a top edge of the gusset bag, and

wherein at least one of the main faces is provided with a cutting guide line along which an upper part of the gusset bag is adapted to be cut off, the cutting guide line intersecting with the vertical wire-like members, and the vertical wire-like members are adapted to be cut off along the cutting guide line.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A gusset bag according to claim 4,  
comprising:  
a pair of main faces and a pair of inward folding side faces adapted to be opened at a  
top portion of said gusset bag for taking out contents of the gusset bag while self-standing,  
wherein a deformable vertical wire-like member is vertically attached exclusively  
along each lateral edge of said gusset bag that is an intersection of adjacent main and side  
faces over a length from an output opening side portion to a body portion of the gusset bag  
and is disposed exclusively along an upper portion of said gusset bag such that the vertical  
wire-like member does not extend to a top edge of the gusset bag, and  
wherein a projection for creating a level difference is provided across [[the]] a  
centerline of each of the side faces below an upper end output opening and each of the  
projections is depressed from the respective side face towards an inside of the gusset bag.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A gusset bag according to claim 4,  
comprising:  
a pair of main faces and a pair of inward folding side faces adapted to be opened at a  
top portion of said gusset bag for taking out contents of the gusset bag while self-standing,  
wherein a deformable vertical wire-like member is vertically attached exclusively  
along each lateral edge of said gusset bag that is an intersection of adjacent main and side  
faces over a length from an output opening side portion to a body portion of the gusset bag  
and is disposed exclusively along an upper portion of said gusset bag such that the vertical  
wire-like member does not extend to a top edge of the gusset bag, and  
wherein each of the side faces has a vertical fin-like rib projecting on [[the]] an outer  
side thereof along [[the]] a centerline thereof and the vertical fin-like rib has a triangular  
shape such that a width of the side face at a lower edge of the vertical fin-like rib is larger

than a width of the side face at a top of the vertical fin-like rib, the rib being formed by folding a narrow longitudinal area symmetric about the center line to make a mountain fold on the outer ~~surface~~ side of the side face along the centerline and adhering [[the]] facing inner sides of the folded narrow area.

Claims 9-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The bag according to claim 2, wherein the wire-like member is covered with a resin.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A detergent package comprising a powdered or granular detergent packed in the bag according to claim 2.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A bag formed of a sheet material, comprising:  
a plastically deformable wire-like member attached exclusively along a lateral edge of said bag, the wire-like member being disposed inside a fused joint of a folded back hem seal of said bag formed along the lateral edge such that the wire-like member does not extend to a top edge of the bag; and

a rectangular projection which extends along side faces of said bag for maintaining a rectangular shape of said bag upon being open,

wherein the wire-like member is disposed exclusively along an upper portion of the hem seal joint of the bag.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A bag formed of a sheet material, comprising:

a plastically deformable wire-like member attached exclusively along a lateral edge of said bag, the lateral edge having a hem seal formed by heat sealing, the wire-like member being disposed inside a fused joint of a folded back hem seal of said bag with a non-fused portion left between the wire-like member and a surrounding fused portion of the hem seal, wherein said wire-like member is disposed along the lateral edge inside said folded back hem seal joint such that the folded back hem seal joint is positioned at a top end, at a bottom end, and on at least one side of the wire-like member so as to leave a space from a fused portion of said joint and is disposed exclusively along an upper portion of the hem seal joint of said bag; and

a tubular holder for holding said wire-like member wherein a portion free of said wire-like member of said bag configured for forming an open space of said bag is provided between a top edge of said bag around an opening of said bag and an upper open end of said tubular holder.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The bag according to claim 2, wherein at least one main face of the bag is provided with a cutting guide line along which an upper part of the bag is adapted to be cut off, the cutting guide line intersecting with the vertical wire-like member, and the vertical wire-like member is adapted to be cut off along the cutting guide line.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The bag according to claim 18, wherein at least one main face of the bag is provided with a cutting guide line along which an upper part of the bag is adapted to be cut off, the cutting guide line intersecting with the vertical wire-like member, and the vertical wire-like member is adapted to be cut off along the cutting guide line.

Claim 21 (New): The bag according to claim 2, wherein the bag includes four of the lateral edges and at least two of the lateral edges each include the plastically deformable wire-like member disposed along the lateral edge.

Claim 22 (New): The bag according to claim 2, wherein the bag includes four of the lateral edges and each of the four lateral edges include the plastically deformable wire-like member disposed along the lateral edge.